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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU

DEATH DUEL
WITH
AGENT SYN!



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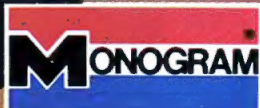
Trans Am Pontiac (1/24)



Snap Tite Trans AM (1/32)

ACTUAL SIZE
24½" overall length
Superscale
Turbo Trans Am (1/8)

Right. Down to the last detail.



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"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is *Dr. Fu Manchu*, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

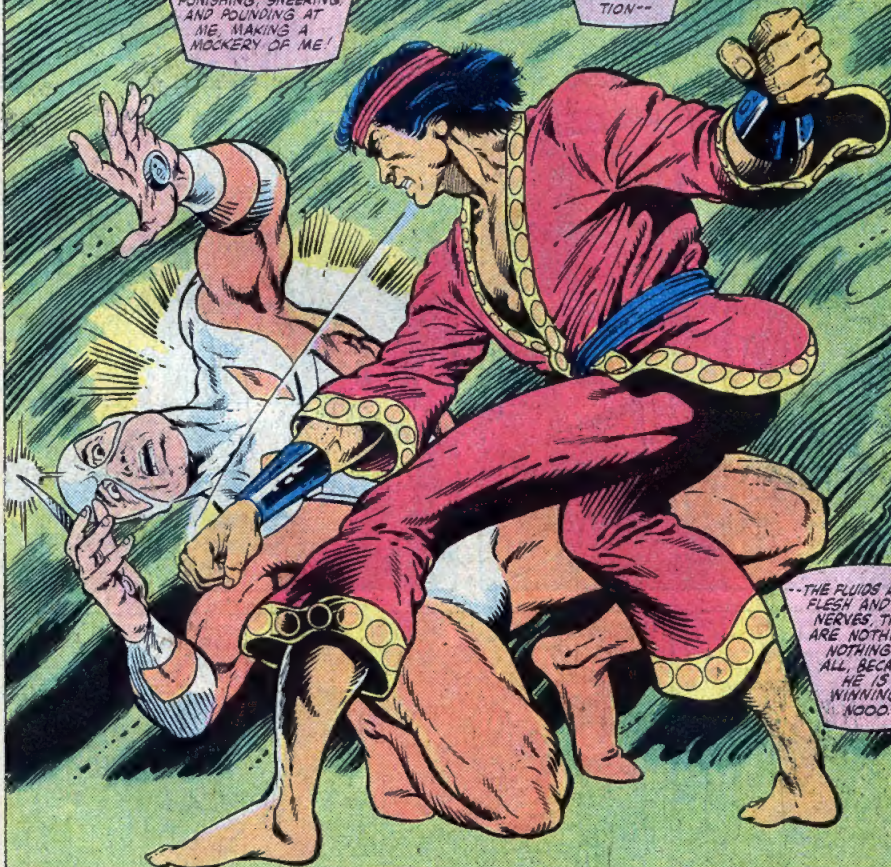
MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

AGENT SYD'S NIGHTMARE

NOOO! HE IS WINNING!
SHANG-CHI IS WINNING!
BEATING, THRASHING,
PUNISHING, SNEERING,
AND POUNDING AT
ME, MAKING A
MOCKERY OF ME!

ALL MY SKILLS
AND COORDI-
NATION AND
PREPARA-
TION--



--THE FLUIDS AND THE
FLESH AND THE
NERVES, THEY
ARE NOTHING,
NOTHING AT
ALL, BECAUSE
HE IS
WINNING!
NOOO!!

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

MIKE ZECK & GENE DAY
ARTISTS

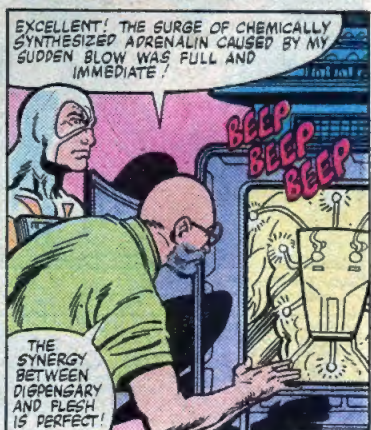
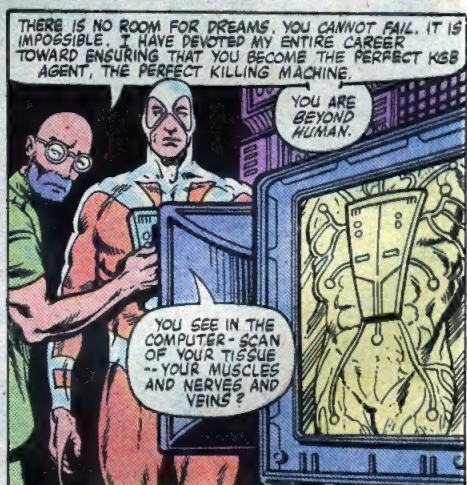
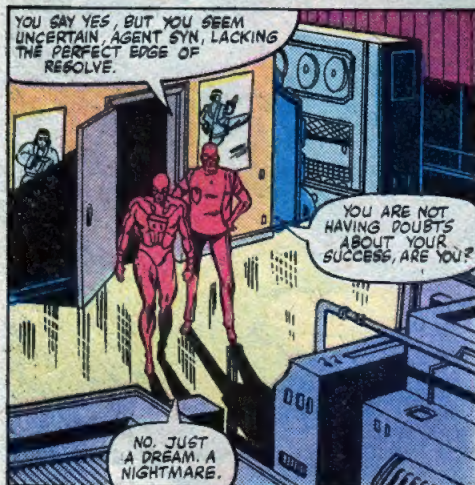
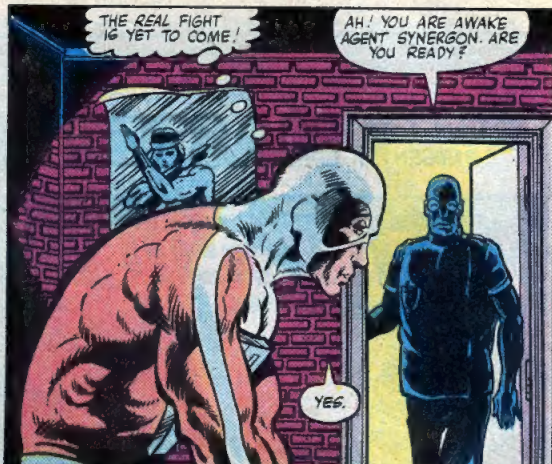
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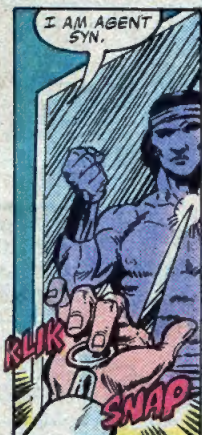
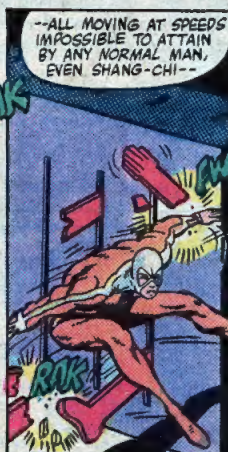
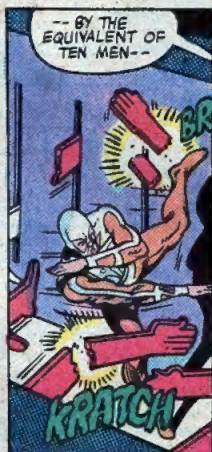
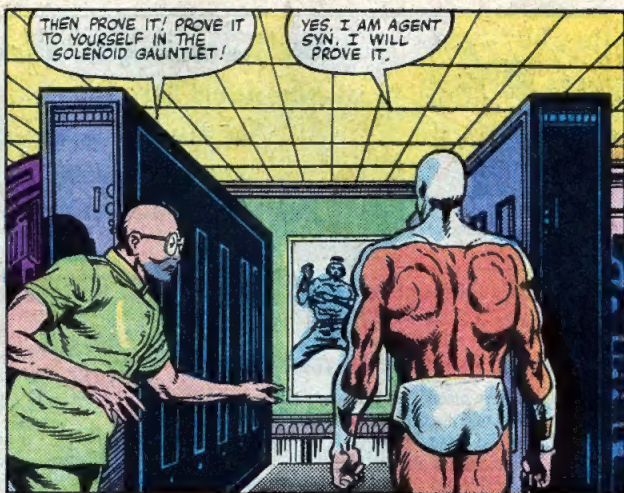
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"SMITH'S CASTLE HAS BEEN CHANGED."

"YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET, CHINAMAN."

"HOW SO, TARR?"

"SIR DENIS HAS DONE WONDERS WITH THIS PLACE--"

--MAKES XANADU LOOK LIKE A SLUM TENEMENT NOW."

"THE HELICOPTER SETTLES WITHIN THE OUTER WALL. SMITH, EMERGING TO GREET US, HAS CHANGED LITTLE IN APPEARANCE..."

"HALLOA!"

"...BUT IN SPIRIT HE SEEMS... HIGHER."

"THE MAN HAS, IN MANY WAYS, BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO ME-- THE FATHER I HAVE DENIED IN FU MANCHU..."

"LEIKO-- SHANG-CHI! IT DOES ME GOOD TO SEE THE TWO OF YOU AGAIN!"

"AND YET, AS WITH MY TRUE FATHER, I CANNOT FULLY OPEN TO SMITH. SOMETHING MAKES ME DENY HIM AS WELL..."

"TURNING TO TARR, NOW, SMITH'S EXPRESSION DARKENS..."

"MANDY! HOW IS SHE, BLACK JACK?"

"SHE'S BEEN THE SAME, SIR DENIS-- EVER SINCE WE RESCUED HER FROM THE DAWNING LIGHT CULT ON LONG ISLAND..."

"WE INFILTRATED THE CULT'S LOCAL MISSION AND TOOK HER OUT--"

"HER MIND'S STILL WARPED BY THE CULT BRAINWASHING-- SAID SHE'D KILL ME-- HAD TO GIVE HER A SEPARATIVE JUST TO KEEP HER FROM JUMPIN' OUTTA THE BLOODY HELICOPTER. A SHAME, SIR DENIS, WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO THIS GIRL."

"--BUT TO HER IT WASN'T A RESCUE... IT WAS A KIDNAPING."

"I STILL REMEMBER BUYIN' HER ICE CREAM AN' BOUNCIN' HER ON ME KNEE."

"YES... WELL, BETTER TAKE HER INSIDE. HER SISTER MELISSA WILL BE ANXIOUS TO SEE HER-- AND LEEKS WANTS TO BEGIN THE DEPROGRAMMING."

"LYMAN LEEKS IS HERE?"

"EVERYONE IS HERE, LAD."

NO DOUBT BLACK JACK HAS TOLD YOU WHAT WE'VE DONE HERE, CONVERTING MY ANCESTRAL CASTLE INTO LIVING QUARTERS AS WELL AS A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT NERVE-CENTER FOR OUR NEW PRIVATE OPERATIONS.

LEEKS--AND EVEN MRS. HAVERSHAM--HAVE COME UP WITH THE OTHERS TO HELP GET THE PLACE IN SHAPE.

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I'VE SPENT RIGHT DOWN TO MY LAST PENNY TO COMPLETE THE RENOVATIONS AND INSTALL EVERYTHING WE'LL NEED. AUGH OF THE PLACE IS STILL CLOSED OFF--

--BUT I'VE OPENED UP THREE TIMES AS MANY ROOMS AS WE USED BEFORE.

I DISCOVERED SOME RECORDS IN REDHEATH TOWER-- HISTORY OF THE PLACE MOSTLY-- AND LEARNED THAT THE CASTLE WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED STORMHAVEN. QUITE APPROPRIATE FOR WHAT WE HOPE TO DO HERE.

SO WELCOME TO STORMHAVEN, LAD-- AND YOU TOO, LEIKO--

WELCOME TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF OUR NEW ORGANIZATION-- "FREELANCE RESTORATIONS, LIMITED." IT'S AS IF THE PLACE HAS BEEN SLEEPING-- AND HAS NOW AWAKENED TO ITS OWN PAST AND OUR FUTURE.

WOULD YOU CARE FOR THE TOUR?

AND FORGIVE ANY CHILDISH PRIDE... BUT I AM RATHER PLEASED WITH THE PLACE.

I... I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT, SIR DENIS...

THIS LIVING ROOM IS TWICE AS BIG AS MY ENTIRE FLAT IN SOHO!

FOR EXAMPLE... I MUST CONFESS I'VE RESERVED THE MOST ELEGANT SUITE FOR MYSELF.

YES, BUT I TRUST WE'VE SEALED OFF THE DRAFTS.

STEP LIVELY NOW-- WE'VE MANY ROOMS TO COVER, MANY SIGHTS TO SEE...

THIS IS MERELY THE BEDROOM-- ALL ANTIQUE FURNISHINGS AND APPURTENANCES, OF COURSE.



THIS IS PETRIE'S SUITE, BUT WE WON'T DISTURB HIM JUST NOW.

HOW IS HE?

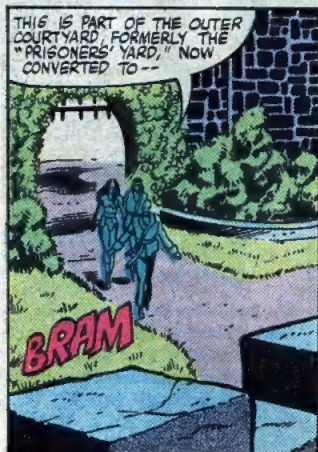


YES-- HAS HE FULLY RECOVERED YET FROM FU MANCHU'S MIND-CONTROL?

HE'S STILL A TRIFLE SUBDUED, BUT COMING ALONG. AFTER ALL HE'S BEEN THROUGH A NIGHTMARE.



"AND RIGHT NOW I SHOULD THINK HE'S JUST A LITTLE LOST IN THE PAST... PONDERING BETTER TIMES, AND WHAT WAS ONCE SO BRIGHT AND NEW..."



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CLIVE--!

"RESTON.



"I HAVE NOT REALLY SPOKE TO HIM SINCE HE LIED TO ME..."



...ABOUT HIS BETRAYAL WITH LEIKO...



"...AND SINCE I BETRAYED BY MY OWN SPIRIT BY LETTING MY RAGE SPILL OUTWARD ONTO HIM."



"NOW... HELLO, CHI. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS REUNION-- THINKING ABOUT IT. IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME, AND MAYBE NEVER BE THE SAME..."



BUT AS MY GREAT-UNCLE WOULD SAY: "IT'S A SMALL MIND THAT DWELLS IN THE PAST." I'M WILLING TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP FORWARD IF YOU ARE.

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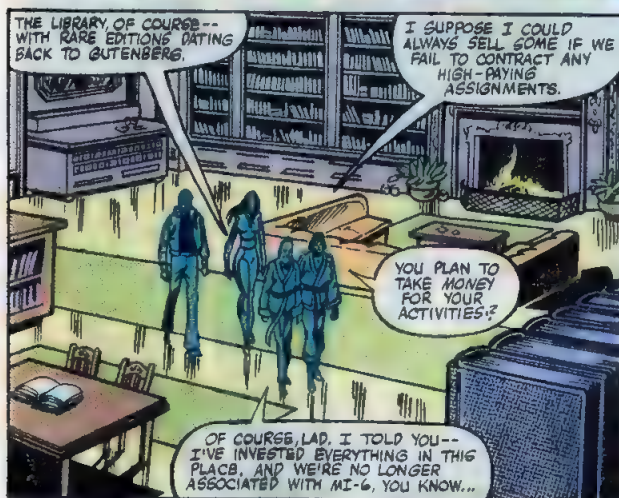
PLEASE,
SHANG.



I TOO AM WILLING, RESTON... AND I AM SORRY.

SO AM I, CHI,
SO AM I.

AHEM. WELL IF
EVERYONE IS NOT
FEELING TOO BITTER-
SWEET ABOUT THE
PAST... SHALL WE
RESUME THE TOUR?



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WITH RARE EDITIONS DATING
BACK TO GUTENBERG.

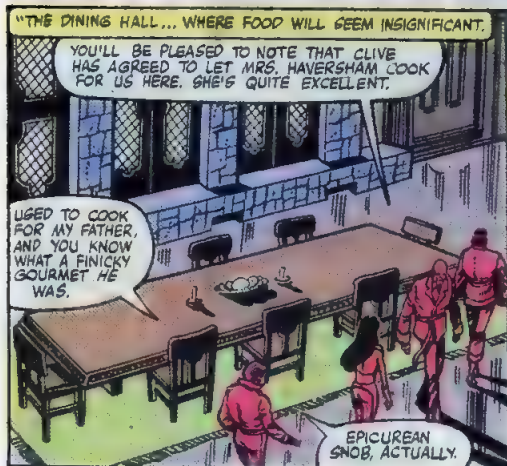
I SUPPOSE I COULD
ALWAYS SELL SOME IF WE
FAIL TO CONTRACT ANY
HIGH-PAYING
ASSIGNMENTS.

YOU PLAN TO
TAKE MONEY
FOR YOUR
ACTIVITIES?

OF COURSE, LAD. I TOLD YOU--
I'VE INVESTED EVERYTHING IN THIS
PLACE, AND WE'RE NO LONGER
ASSOCIATED WITH MI-6, YOU KNOW...

THERE'S NO GOVERNMENT SANCTION OR
FUNDING OF OUR SERVICES NOW. BUT
WE SHALL TAKE ON ONLY THOSE
CASES WE DEEM WORTHY, CHARGING
JUST A SMIDGEN BEYOND EXPENSES--
ENOUGH TO KEEP US GOING, THAT'S
ALL.

I... GEE.



"THE DINING HALL... WHERE FOOD WILL SEEM INSIGNIFICANT.

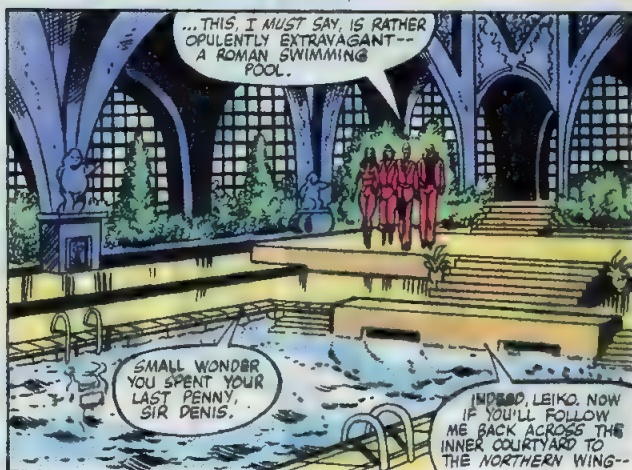
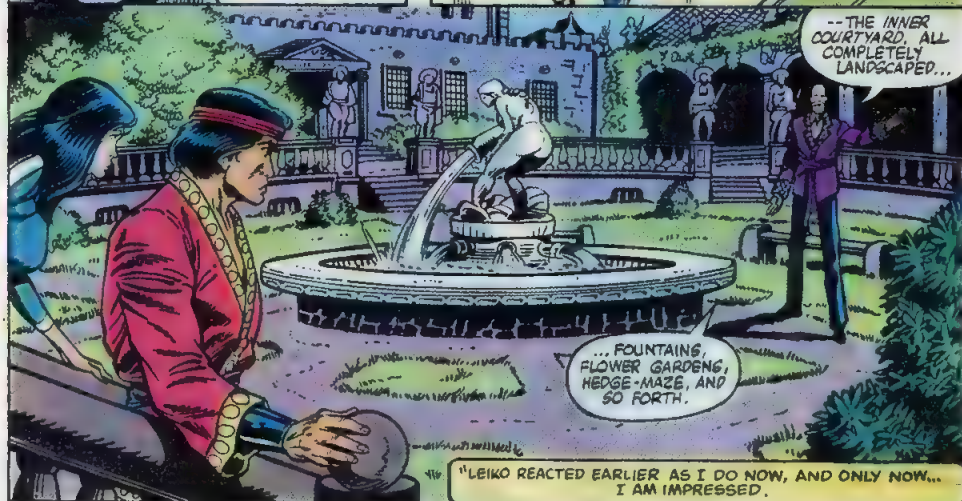
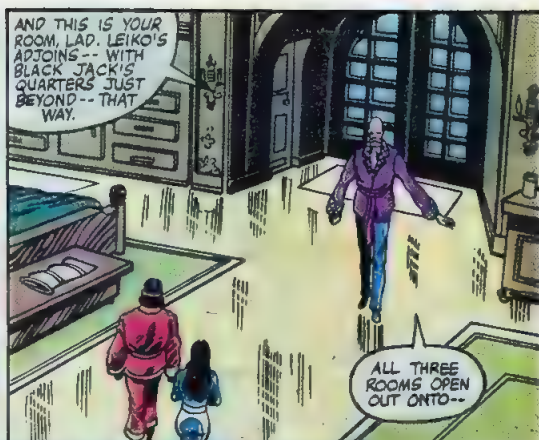
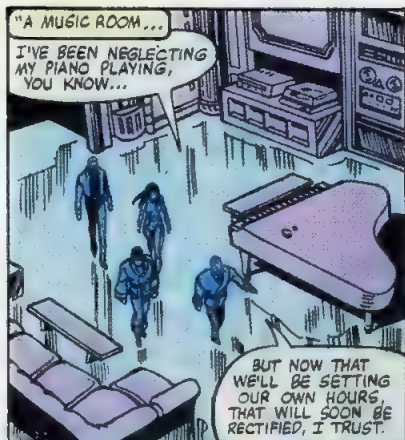
YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT CLIVE
HAS AGREED TO LET MRS. HAYERSHAM COOK
FOR US HERE. SHE'S QUITE EXCELLENT.

USED TO COOK
FOR MY FATHER,
AND YOU KNOW
WHAT A FINICKY
GOURMET HE
WAS.

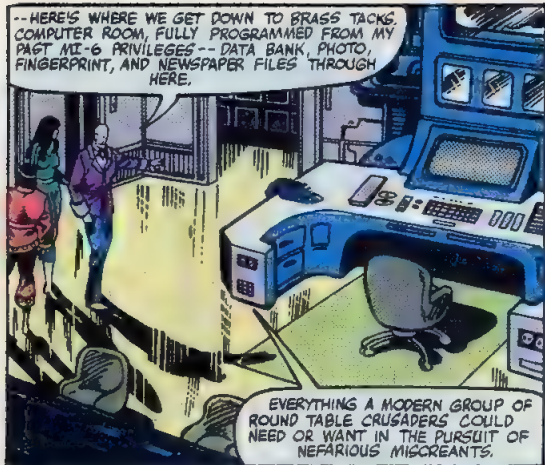
EPICUREAN
SNOB, ACTUALLY.



THIS IS ONE OF THE ART GALLERIES.
WE'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH BLACK
JACK TO KEEP THOSE DREADFUL
"BARBARIAN POSTERS" OF HIS
OUT OF HERE.

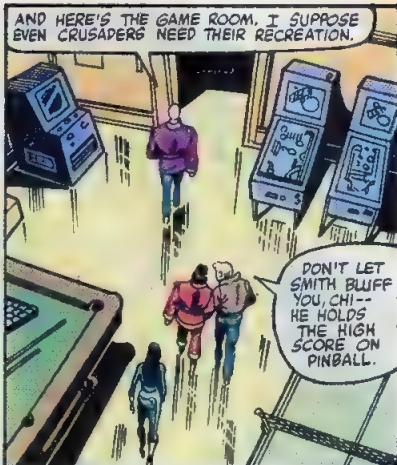


--HERE'S WHERE WE GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS. COMPUTER ROOM, FULLY PROGRAMMED FROM MY PAST MI-6 PRIVILEGES-- DATA BANK, PHOTO, FINGERPRINT, AND NEWSPAPER FILES THROUGH HERE.



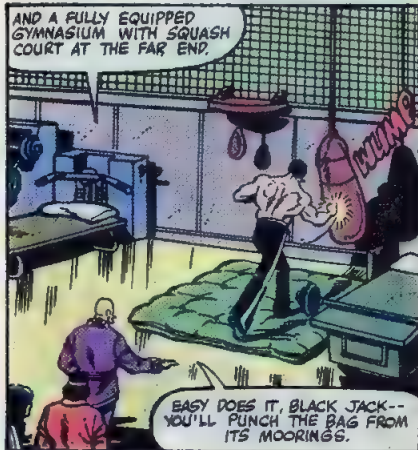
EVERYTHING A MODERN GROUP OF ROUND TABLE CRUSADERS COULD NEED OR WANT IN THE PURSUIT OF NEFARIOUS MISCREANTS.

AND HERE'S THE GAME ROOM. I SUPPOSE EVEN CRUSADERS NEED THEIR RECREATION.



DON'T LET SMITH BLUFF YOU, CHI-- HE HOLDS THE HIGH SCORE ON PINBALL.

AND A FULLY EQUIPPED GYMNASIUM WITH SQUASH COURT AT THE FAR END.

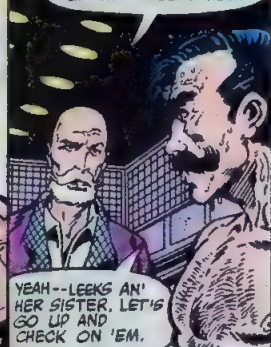


EASY DOES IT, BLACK JACK-- YOU'LL PUNCH THE BAG FROM ITS MOORINGS.

GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' TO LET OFF STEAM, SIR DENIS--AFTER FEELIN' SO HELPLESS ABOUT MANDY. IF YOU COULDA SEEN THE COLD HATE IN HER EYES WHEN SHE HISSED SHE WAS GONNA KILL ME!

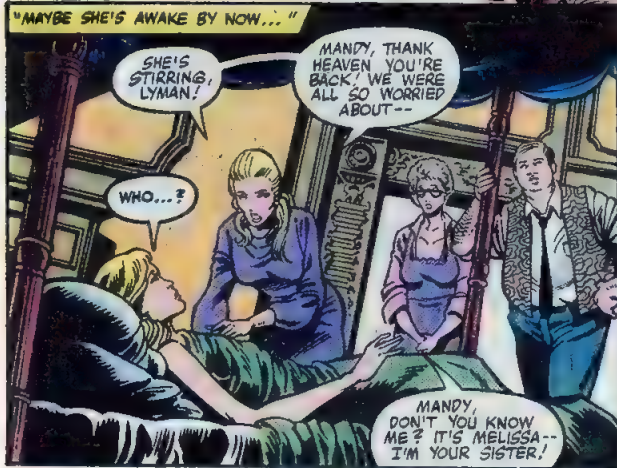


YES, WE'VE RESEARCHED OTHER DAWNING LIGHT MEMBERS WHILE YOU WERE GONE--THE MIND ALTERATION IS PROFOUND. SHE'S UP WITH LEES NOW?



YEAH--LEES AN' HER SISTER. LET'S GO UP AN' CHECK ON 'EM.

"MAYBE SHE'S AWAKE BY NOW..."



SHE'S STIRRING, LYMAN!

WHO...?

MANDY, THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE BACK. WE WERE ALL SO WORRIED ABOUT--

MANDY, DON'T YOU KNOW ME? IT'S MELISSA-- I'M YOUR SISTER!

I HAVE NO SISTERS, NO BROTHERS, NO FAMILY-- OTHER THAN MY FAMILY IN THE DAWNING LIGHT!



MANDY--!

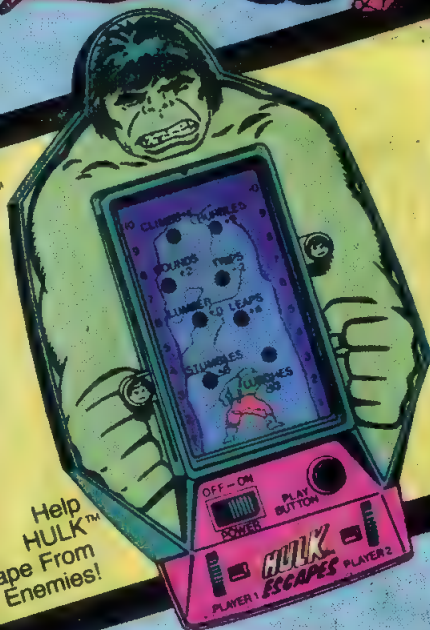
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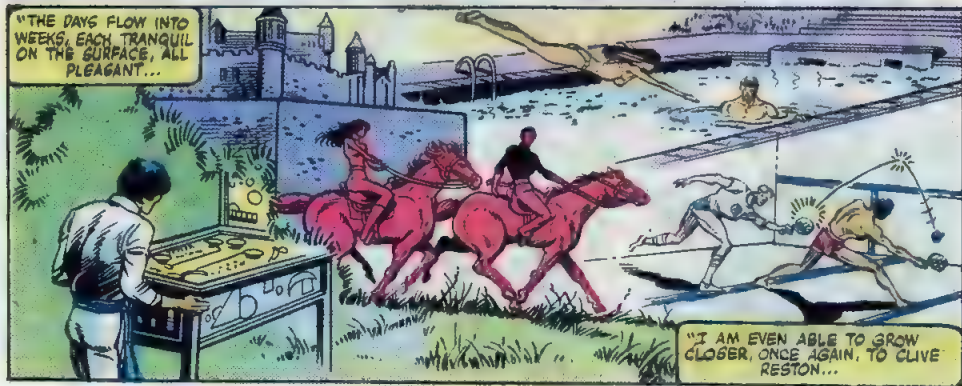
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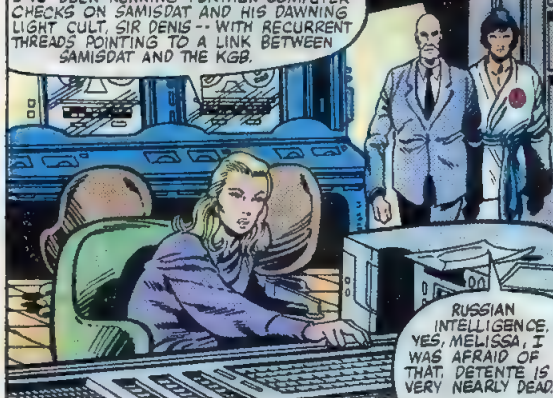
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"... BUT EVERY MINUTE OF THE TIME HAS BEEN EDGED WITH UNDERLYING URGENCY, AND A SENSE OF APPROACHING DANGER.

I'VE BEEN RUNNING FURTHER COMPUTER CHECKS ON SAMISDAT AND HIS DAWNING LIGHT CULT, SIR DENIS -- WITH RECURRENT THREADS POINTING TO A LINK BETWEEN SAMISDAT AND THE KGB.



RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE, YES, MELISSA, I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. DETENTE IS VERY NEARLY DEAD.

BESIDES, SAMISDAT IS FROM RUMANIA, PART OF THE SOVIET BLOC, AND I DON'T CARE HOW LUNATIC HIS CULT MEMBERS ARE -- THAT HIJACK OF WEST GERMAN WEAPONRY SMELLED LIKE THE WORK OF SOVIET PROFESSIONALS.



WELL, WOULD YOU CARE TO CHECK ON YOUR SISTER? WITH YOUR UNCLE CONFINED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, YOU'RE THE CLOSEST FAMILY SHE'S GOT, MELISSA...



"... AND EVEN THOUGH THERE'S BEEN PRECIOUS LITTLE PROGRESS THESE PAST WEEKS, LEEKG CLAIMS THE KEY TO DEPROGRAMMING LIES IN REESTABLISHING A SENSE OF NORMALCY, MAKING THE SUBJECT SEE HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN A FORMER LIGHT.

LEAVE ME ALONE, FAT-MAN.



YOU'RE NOT MY FRIEND -- YOU'RE THE ENEMY!

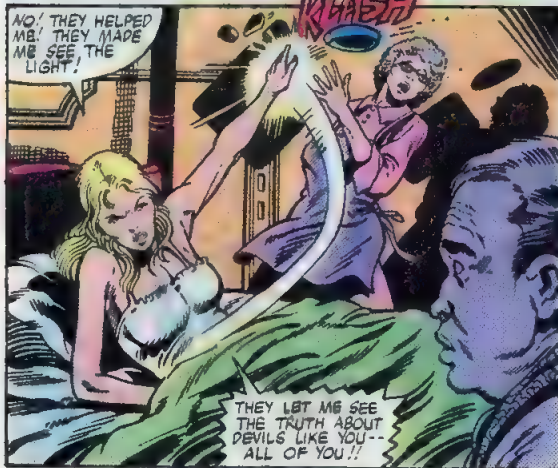
FOR THE ONE-MILLIONTH TIME, MANDY, DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO YOU? THEY INDOCTRINATED YOU WITH VIOLENCE--

"-- BRAINWASHED YOU, TURNED YOU AGAINST YOUR FORMER FRIENDS-- AGAINST SOCIETY!"

REMEMBER, MANDY, WE MUST ELIMINATE OUR ENEMIES. THEY'RE BLIND -- ONLY WE SEE THE DAWNING LIGHT.



NO! THEY HELPED ME, THEY MADE ME SEE THE LIGHT!



THEY LET ME SEE THE TRUTH ABOUT DEVILS LIKE YOU-- ALL OF YOU!!

BLAST IT, GIRL, THEY BLINDED YOU TO THE TRUTH -- BLINDED YOU TO ALL REASON-- ALL RECOGNITION OF REALITY. WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS!

MELISSA IS YOUR SISTER!!



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8AM

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF MIGHTY HECKLE AND MOUSE AND JECKLE

HERE HE COMES TO START THE DAY, ALONG WITH THOSE MAGPIES WHO'LL PUT YOU AWAY.

8:30AM

THE TOM & JERRY COMEDY SHOW

NEW!

TO CATCH OR NOT TO CATCH—THAT IS THE QUEST. WITH WACKY TACTICS THE METHOD TO THEIR CAT AND MOUSE MADNESS.

9AM

BUGS BUNNY ROAD RUNNER SHOW

THE "BUNNY" AND THE "BIRD" ARE BACK, ALONG WITH THEIR HILARIOUS CAST OF LOONIES. AND THAT AIN'T ALL, FOLKS.

10:30AM

THE ALL NEW POPEYE HOUR

HE AM WHAT HE AM AND HE ALWAYS WILL BE. HIS FRIENDS ARE SOMETHING ELSE.

11:30AM

Drak Pack

NEW!

12 NOON

THE NEW FAT ALBERT SHOW

NEW TIME!

FAT ALBERT AND THE DUDES ARE STILL DOING IT RIGHT, FALLING ALL OVER EACH OTHER BUT COMING UP TIGHT.

the Tarzan Lone Ranger adventure hour

12:30PM

THE LORD OF THE JUNGLE SWINGS INTO ACTION AGAINST THE MYSTERIOUS, THE DANGEROUS, AND THE UNKNOWN.

RETURN WITH US NOW TO THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTER-YEAR WITH ALL-NEW ADVENTURES OF THE MASKED MAN & HIS INDIAN COMPANION, TONTO.

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LYMAN, GIVE THE POOR GIRL A BREAK! YOU'RE BEING TOO RO' SH ON HER!

YES... YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, MRS. HAYVERHAM.

I'M SORRY.

EVERY TIME I THINK I'M GETTING THROUGH TO HER, NAYLAND, SHE REVERTS BACK TO MURDEROUS ALLEGIANCE WITH HER BLOODY CULT. THERE'S BEEN SOME PROGRESS, YES, BUT SO SLOW IN COMING -- IT'S BEEN WEEKS NOW!

IT'S AS IF SHE NEEDS SOME FINAL SHOCK-- SOMETHING TO BREAK THROUGH THE LAST BLOCK IN HER MIND AND AWAKEN HER TO THE TRUTH!

I AM WINNING THIS TIME -- BEATING HIM!

KILLING HIM--

YOU ARE READY, AGENT SYN?

EH? YES. I HAVE BEEN READY FOR WEEKS.

THE DREAMS ARE GONE?

NOT GONE-- BUT BETTER.

EXCELLENT. YOU LEAVE LONDON TODAY.

LEAVE FOR WHERE?

OUR FIELD AGENTS HAVE FINALLY LOCATED THE OBJECTIVES. THEY ARE IN A CASTLE IN CENTRAL SCOTLAND, AN AREA KNOWN AS FLAMEMOSS MOOR. THEY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MANDY GREVILLE THERE, BUT APPARENTLY HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN FORCING HER TO TALK.

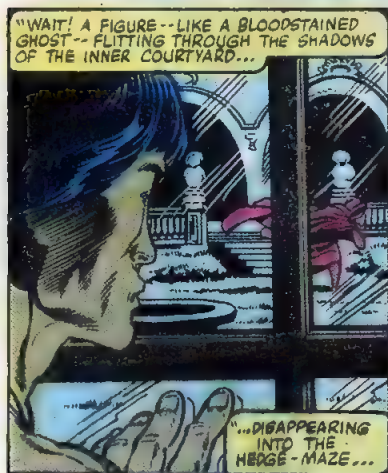
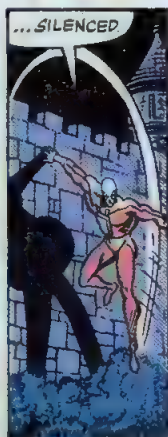
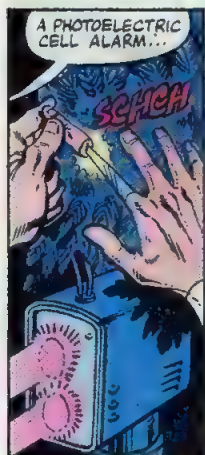
YOU MUST ELIMINATE HER BEFORE THEY DO SO.

SHOULD THEY LEARN THE LOCATION OF SAMISDAT ISLAND--

I UNDERSTAND.

VERY WELL, REMEMBER, WHILE THEY ARE ALL DANGEROUS... HE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS, BUT EVEN SO, COMPARED TO YOU, HE IS NOTHING.

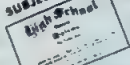
YOU WILL DESTROY HIM, TONIGHT.



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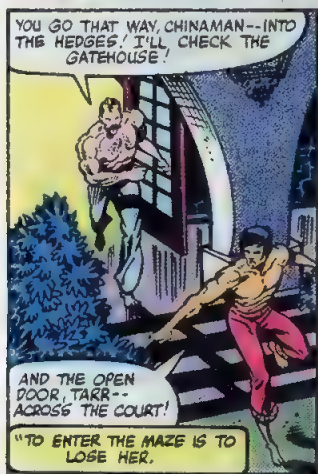
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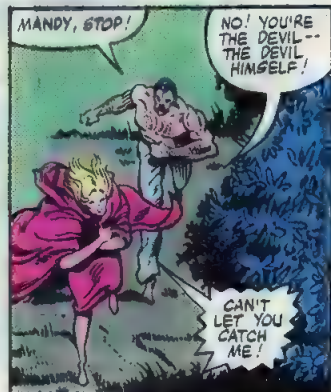
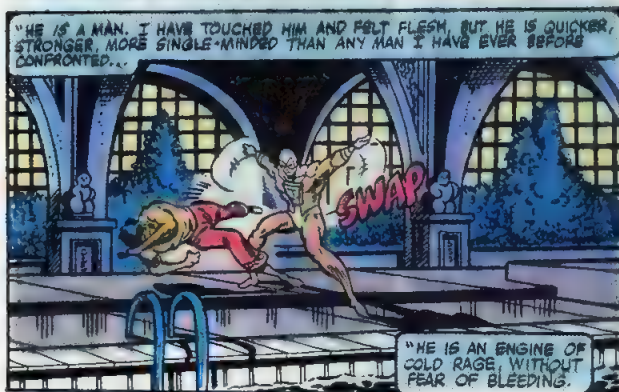
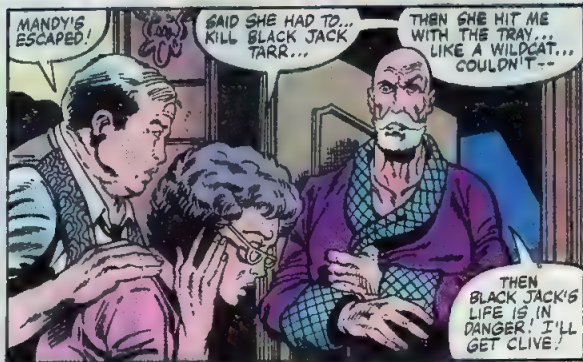
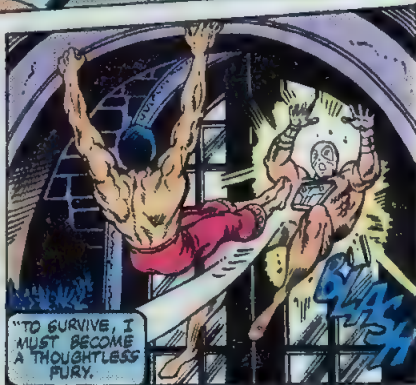
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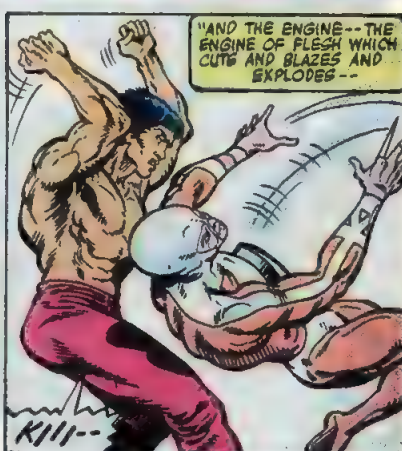
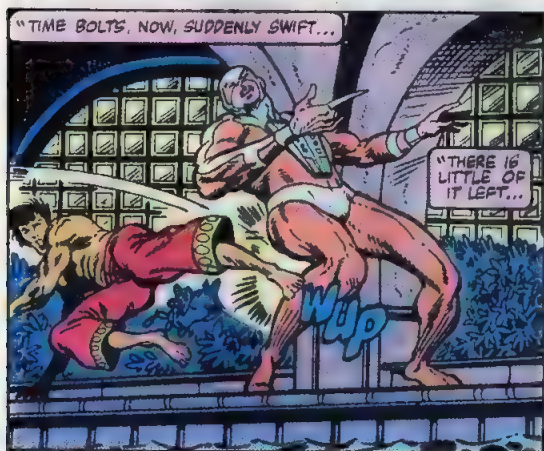
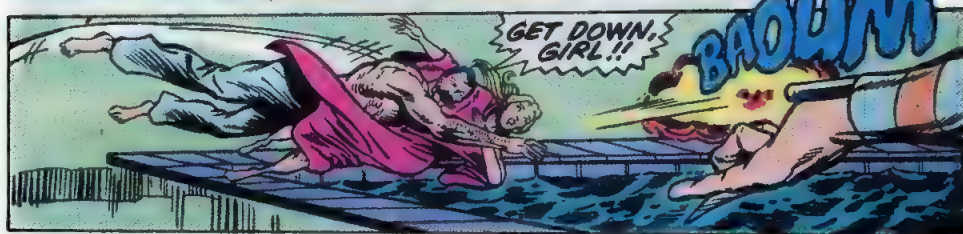
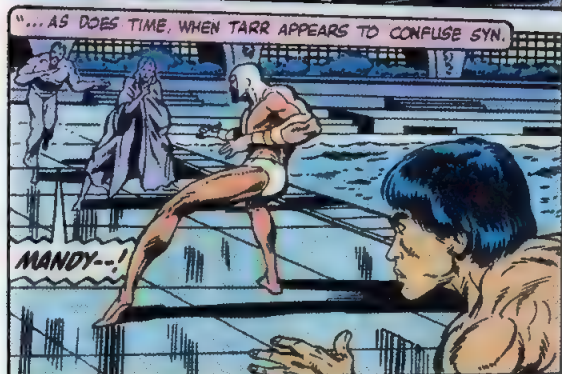
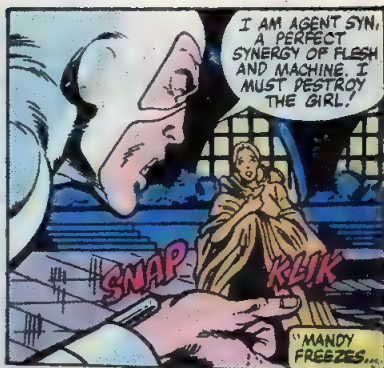
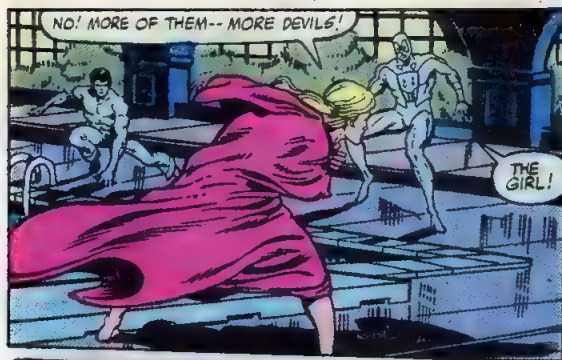
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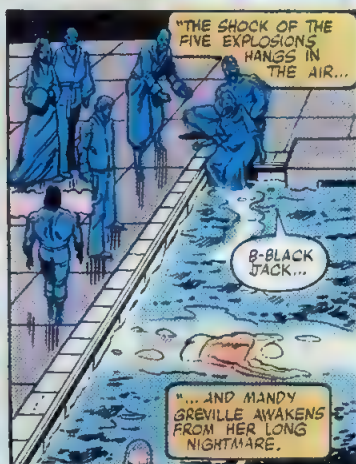
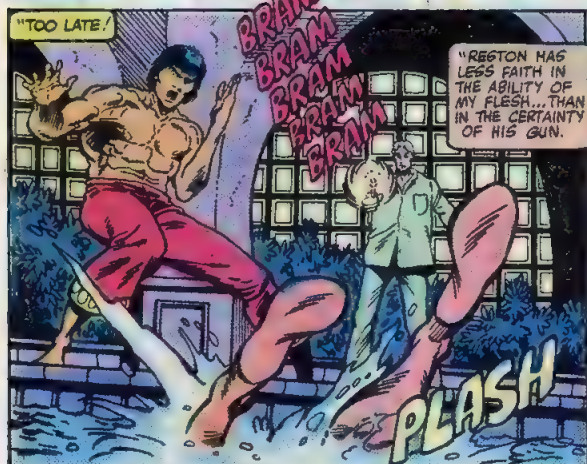
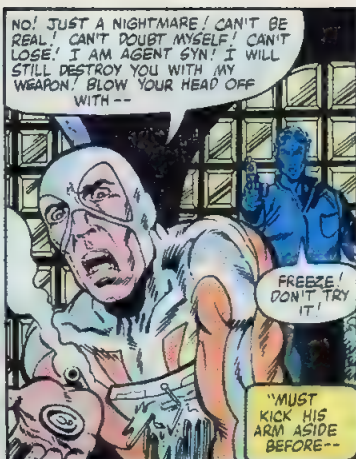
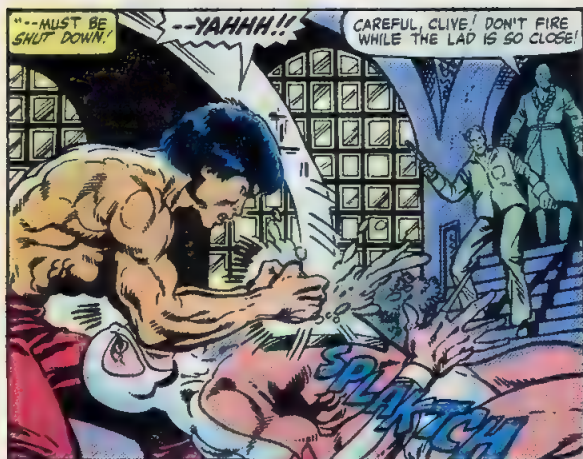
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MEDITATIONS

CALL ME SHANG-CHI, AS MY FATHER DID, WHEN HE SHAPED MY MIND AND BODY IN THE VACUUM OF HIS HONAN, CHINA RETREAT. I LEARNED MANY THINGS FROM MY FATHER: THAT MY NAME MEANS "THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF A SPIRIT," AND THAT MY BODY COULD BE FORGED INTO A LIVING WEAPON THROUGH THE DISCIPLINE OF KUNG FU. SINCE THEN, I HAVE LEARNED THAT MY FATHER IS DR. FU MANCHU, THE MOST INSIDIOUSLY EVIL MAN ON EARTH... AND THAT TO HONOR HIM WOULD BRING NOTHING BUT DISHONOR TO THE SPIRIT OF MY NAME.

THERE IS MUCH I DO NOT KNOW... AND IT CAUSES ME GREAT PAIN, BUT THIS PAIN IS THE FIRST STEP TO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE... FOR IF I THOUGHT PAINLESSLY, THAT ALL KNOWLEDGE WERE MINE TO COMMAND... WOULD I NOT STOP SEEKING MORE?

HATRED IS PROGRAMMED INTO A Foe'S INNOCENCE. THUS, WHEN I STRIKE, IT IS NOT AT A Foe... BUT AT HIS HATRED.

WHILE SKILL WITH WEAPONS IS POSSIBLE TO ATTAIN, IT IS MERELY A CRUTCH TO OVERCOME A LACK OF FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS... SKILLS WHICH NOT ONLY RENDER A WEAPON UNNECESSARY, BUT A HINDRANCE! AS WELL.

WHAT ONE KNOWS... IS NOT ALWAYS THE TRUTH.

THE STRONGEST WEAPON IS ONE'S BODY... EVEN IF IT IS THE MIND'S WEAKEST SHIELD.

WHY MUST THE SOUND OF MY NAME... SIGNAL NOTHING BUT VIOLENCE? WHY MUST MY SPIRIT ALWAYS BE SO TORN, SO SHATTERED?

BY NATURE, MEN ARE NEARLY ALIKE; BY PRACTICE, THEY BECOME STRANGERS.

WORDS IN COMBAT ARE LIKE POISON IN A CUP OF WATER.

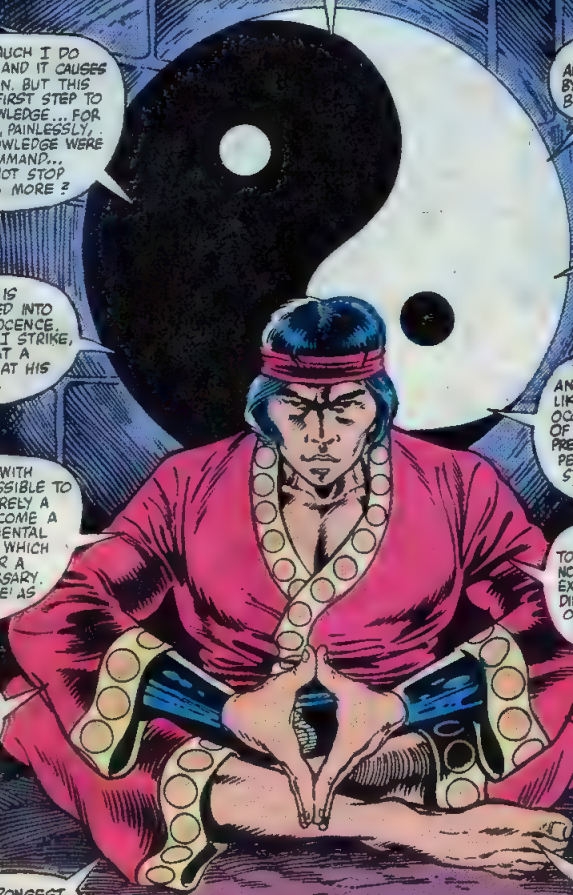
THE MIND IS A PEARL INSIDE AN OYSTER SHELL--THE SKULL. LIKE THE PEARL, THE MIND OCCUPIES BUT A SMALL PORTION OF ITS HOME, YET IT IS THE MOST PRECIOUS PORTION... FOR THIS PEARL OF WISDOM CAN UNDERSTAND ITS HOME, THE WORLD, THE UNIVERSE... AND ITSELF.

KNOWING THAT WORDS ARE TOOLS OF COMMUNICATION, IS IT NOT STRANGE THAT THESE TOOLS EXIST IN SO MANY FORMS... A DIFFERENT FORM FOR EACH REGION OF THE WORLD...? MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONFLICT ARE INEVITABLE.

WHY MUST HATE EVER BOTTLE ITSELF INSIDE... WHERE IT MAY BREED ONLY WITH ITSELF?

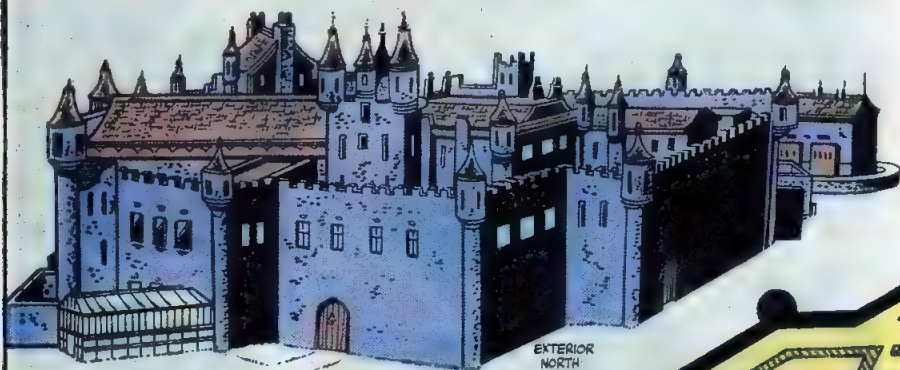
THE WIND IS, AND OFFERS PROOF OF ITSELF BY BEING. THOSE WHO SEEK TO PROVE THEMSELVES THROUGH VIOLENCE HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM THE CARESS OF A COOL BREEZE.

THOUGH MY SPIRIT SCREAMS OTHERWISE, I WILL DO... WHAT I MUST.



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THE GREAT FU MANCHU DEBATE, REVISITED

The completion of our latest Fu Manchu saga has, as expected, further fanned the flames of controversy surrounding our treatment of the Sax Rohmer character. First up is old friend Bill Wu...

Dear Doug:

I've been reading your latest Fu Manchu adventure with particular interest since you expressed a desire to make Fu Manchu a more human, individualized villain, moving him away from his original identity as the "Yellow Peril" incarnate. I can see that you have developed his character further; unfortunately, as I've previously suggested, our positions are just too far apart to be resolved within the confines of this magazine.

I have written earlier about the importance I place on balancing good and evil characters of identifiable racial and ethnic backgrounds. You have reached a virtual balance in MOKF and I'm pleased with that. However, part of the reason I emphasized that concern is that it is one that *can* be achieved within the boundaries of MOKF, as you've demonstrated. The rest of what I would like ideally to see is beyond consideration for MOKF as it has existed so far. For instance, the villains I would prefer to see would not be aged mandarins of a China that has not existed for a long time but would be varieties of real and more immediate villains — like your Carlton Veiro, for instance, and people associated with crime syndicates, corporate crime, and other such concerns. I am not advocating a return to self-righteous, condescending "relevance" as was once practiced in comics, though this may sound like it. Mainly, though, the international espionage in MOKF makes these concerns unlikely on a regular basis. Further, I have serious objections — unmentioned since the first few letters I wrote to MOKF before you took over the writing, Doug — about the spy-line itself. Perhaps I can express it most briefly by saying that the "games of deceit and death" bother me ultimately more than they bother Shang-Chi.

I have not been holding these back deliberately; they simply became neglected during the time our correspondence had continued. I apologize if my mentioning these issues only now seems somehow misleading or dishonest. I have just been aware that my own goals for a magazine such as this are so far from what has created your popular and lucrative success that I saw little point in pursuing some of them. I have sincerely expressed admiration for your scripting abilities; I am, of course, here differing with you only in the larger concept of the book — never its quality. I appreciate your efforts but in the matter of Fu Manchu I'm afraid I can only reiterate my opposition. This is not pleasant after all the fine stories you've written, but my enjoyment as well as my intellectual concern has always been limited in the end by these reservations. I hope to go on enjoying your intricate plots, fine characterization, and the still-rare sight of Asian protagonists. As before, though, I'll have to enjoy them with some reservations, some anger, and general disappointment.

Bill Wu
4414 Homestead Dr.
Prairie Village, KS

Shortly after the above letter made its way into the Marvel Bulbin, and was forwarded to Doug along with the rest of the MOKF mail, a small and somewhat mysterious package from the Orient (studded with beautifully exotic stamps) appeared in Doug's private mailbox. It turned out to be a cassette tape-recording of a "missive" dictated by Bill Wu whilst traveling by rail through the mountains of China. An appropriate passage of the tape deserves transcription: "This is a long way from the world of American popular culture, but I happened to bring issue 90 with me, so here I am. You'll recall in my last letter I expressed a preference for

stories of greater social significance over the spy stories. I had no sooner sent that letter off than issue 90 appeared, of course, with its story of Asian-American gangs set in New York City. I was, ah, greatly amused by the irony of the timing of the two and I hope you got some entertainment out of the chance occurrence. The high point of all this irony, of course, appears on page 7. In my letter I expressed my discomfort with the spy stories by saying I despised the 'games of deceit and death' even more than Shang-Chi, and then here on page 7 we have Leiko telling Shang-Chi that her brother 'despises games of deceit and death even more than you do.' I'm still laughing about this. I will be in Honan province next week and intend to avoid anything resembling a secret retreat until I find out exactly who brought me here and why. I am suspicious that every time you finish a Fu Manchu epic I wind up in East Asia..."

Just coincidence, Bill. Or maybe... synchronicity?

Next up, a less serious commentary on the Fu Manchu saga...

Dear Doug and Mike:

After buying issue #89, I decided that to do the series proper justice I would have to reread the entire epic from the beginning, not just from #83 (and certainly not from #151) but from #71. So, after several hours and many drops of Visine, the task is done and I'm a little disappointed. Don't get me wrong; the writing and the art are both excellent, and that's the problem. You see, the story is over; I can never read it for the first time again. During the "Warriors of the Golden Dawn" I was literally gasping for breath by the end of each issue. And now, to paraphrase a well-known talk-show host, I hold in my hands the *final issue*. Obviously there will be other future issues, finer ones, poorer ones, and ones just as good, but I still can't shake the feeling of finality I've just experienced after reading "The Dragons."

Anyway, now that Fu Manchu is dead (he is, isn't he?), Shang-Chi can go on to other things. We will see Fah Lo Suee's attempts to reorganize MI-6, Chi's relationship with Leiko, Leiko's with Reston, and Reston's with Chi. Will Black Jack go to a chiropractor and continue collecting Fraxetta posters? (By the way, how did Tarr like the first issue of EPIC?) What about the remnants of Fu's army? And Zaran? How does Ducharme feel about being a widow? I'm looking forward to these answers, but not too soon, mind you.

I never thought I would say it, but this mag is now equalled in excellence only by X-MEN. FF and AVENGERS used to be up there, but AVENGERS is inconsistent in its quality lately and FF is starting to seem a little confused. But now that you're the new writer on the FF... come on, Doug, I'm rooting for ya!

Matt Lehman
278 Lowell Rd.
Sayville, NY 11782

Thanks, Matt. But as for the question of Fu Manchu being truly dead or not, we can only refer you to our final missive, which was printed in large, boldly menacing capital letters. No salutation — just the following message and signature...

I SHALL RETURN, WHEN THE DECADENT SOCIETY OF THE WEST LEAST EXPECTS.

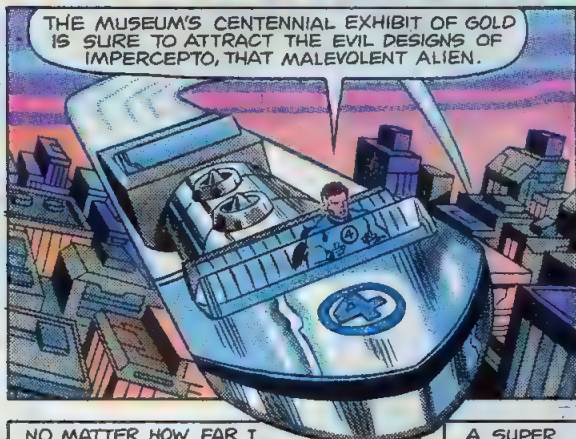
—Fu Manchu

We suspect the man's right — but, we hope, not for a longning while...

In the meantime, plans are already hotly afoot between editor Jim Salicrup and Doug & Mike to make issue #100 (coming up fast!) a rather special double-sized. And next issue, Shang-Chi and Leiko finally confront Samledat himself. Doug has already seen the first eleven pages penciled by Mike; they're some of Mr. Zeck's very best. Show up in 30 days and you can see for yourself — indeed, you'll see all 22 pages, inked by Gene Day to boot!

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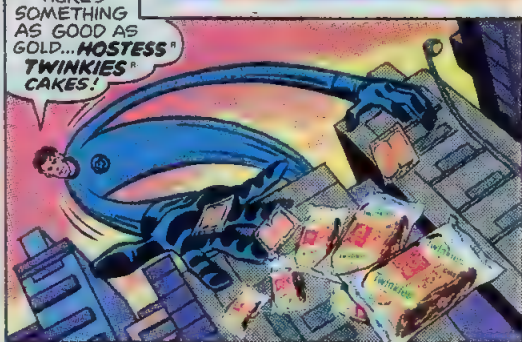
THE MUSEUM'S CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT OF GOLD IS SURE TO ATTRACT THE EVIL DESIGNS OF IMPERCEPTO, THAT MALEVOLENT ALIEN.



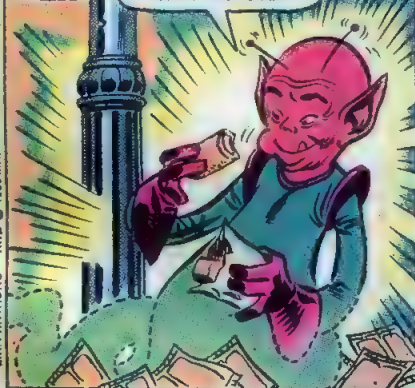
NO MATTER HOW FAR I STRETCH, I CAN'T SEEM TO GET MY HANDS ON HIM... BUT WAIT... IMPERCEPTO'S DNA STRUCTURE MAKES HIM MATERIALIZE WHEN HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH GOLD.



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I SEE **TWINKIES CAKES** WORKED THEIR POWER ON YOU, IMPERCEPTO.

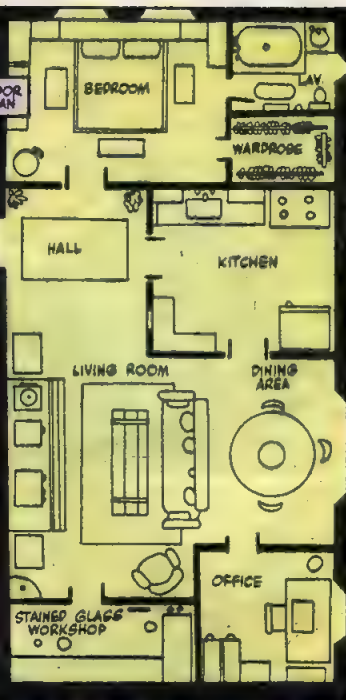
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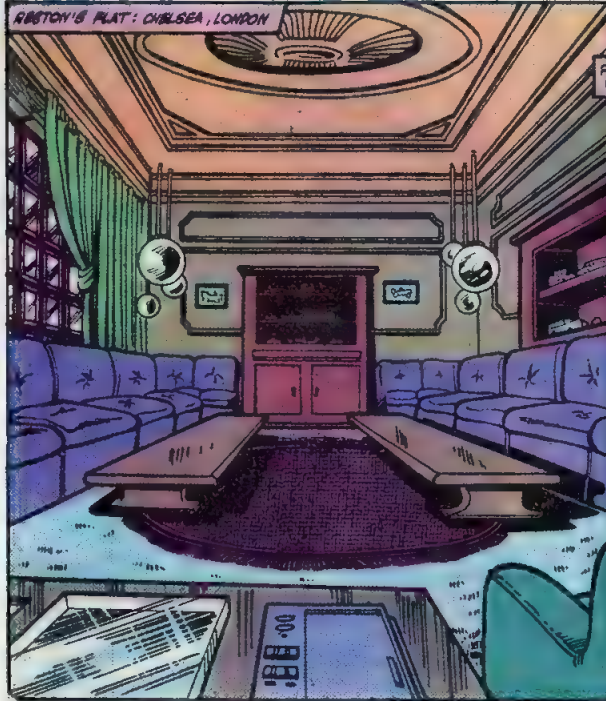
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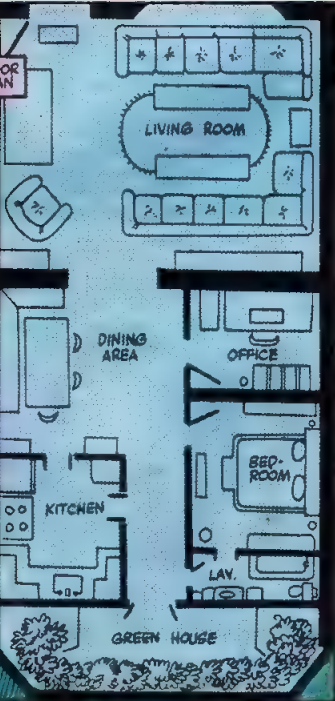
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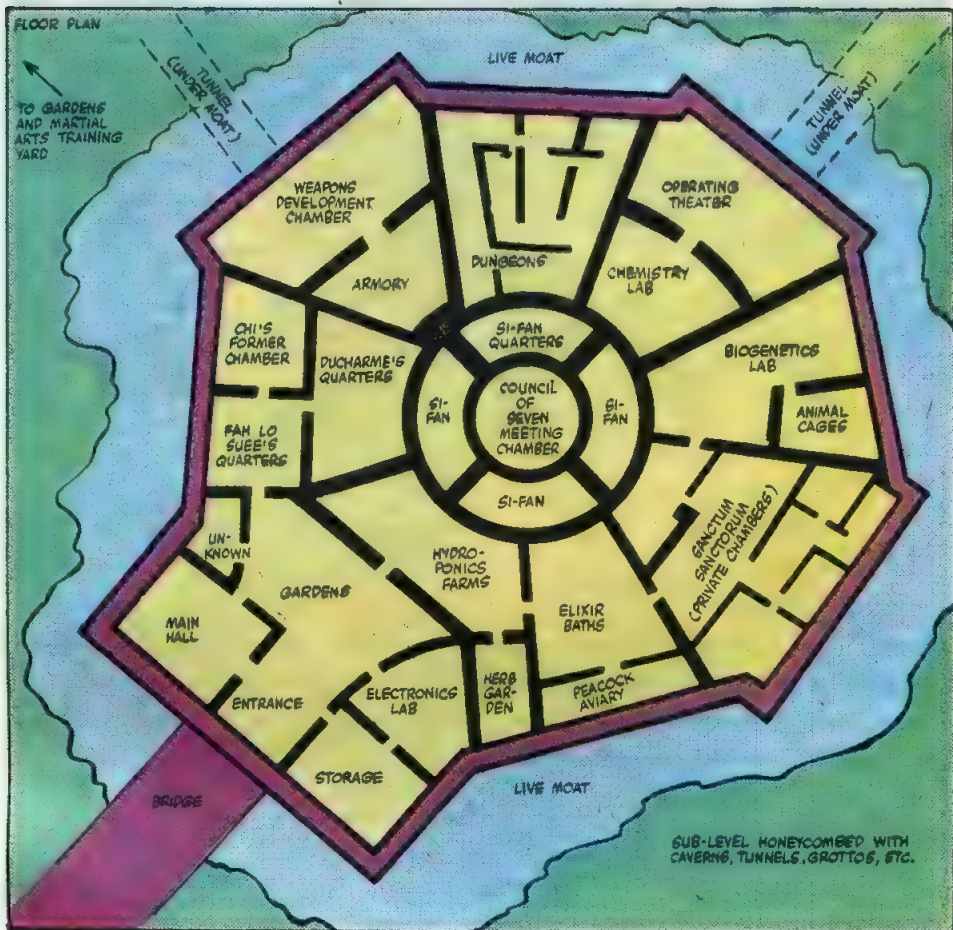
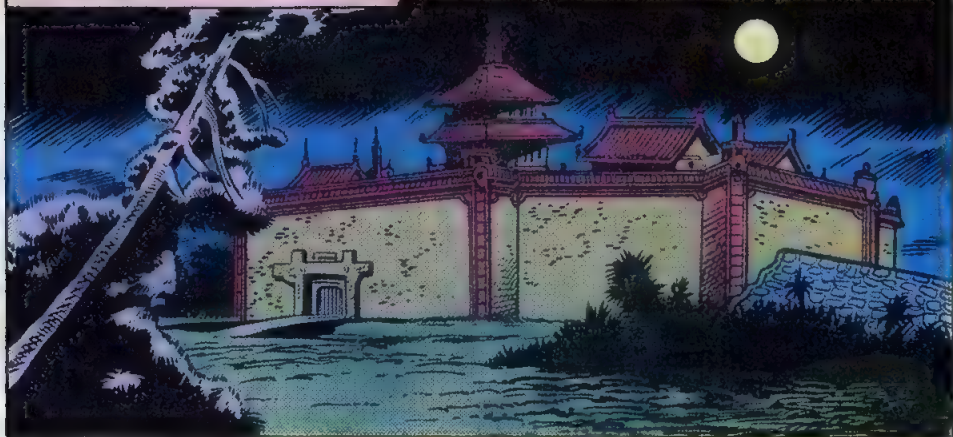


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